

## RIGHTS PASS IN ALLENTOWN!!!

**BURKE: YES**   **HOOVER: YES**   **VELAZQUEZ: YES**   **HOWELLS: YES**   **GURIDY: YES**   **HERSHMAN: NO**



**BAUSCH: NO**

## COUNCIL PASSES ANTI-BIAS BILL 5-2, MAYOR AFFLERBACH SIGNS BILL INTO LAW NEXT DAY

It was the last minute negotiations of Allentown City Councilmember Gail Hoover that brought the basic rights amendment to a successful vote on April 3rd. In front of a packed house of equal rights supporters, Council voted 5 to 2 to include sexual orientation and gender identity in the long list of protected classes already part of Allentown's Human Relations Ordinance. The ordinance protects people from unfair discrimination in the areas of employment, housing and public accommodation.

Allentown is now the 231st US city and the eighth city in PA to include sexual orientation in municipal anti-discrimination law. Five PA cities have laws with language that disallows discrimination based on gender identity, but Allentown is the first PA city to include gender identity as a separate class. There are no federal or PA State laws that prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Mayor Afflerbach immediately signed the bill the next day. It went into effect on May 6th.

## BUT ANTI-RIGHTS "MCVEIGH" PETITION THREATENS REPEAL OF NEW LAW

Twenty-six people spoke in favor of the passage of the amendment of sexual orientation and gender identity at the Allentown City Council meeting and three spoke against. Long time gay rights opponent Frank McVeigh vowed to try to bring about a referendum to overturn the law.

The McVeigh petitions are being circulated by five people who have filed as the petition committee of public record at Allentown City Hall. They are: Frank J. McVeigh, Thomas Malitsch, Martin O'Conner Sr., J. Diane Varra and George I. Snyder. If you know one of these people, please politely ask them to stop. They want to remove this law, so they are trying to gather 2000 signatures to force a referendum. They have until June 14 to get the signatures and they are working on it at this very moment and could succeed.

This anti-gay committee is misrepresenting the petitions by telling people that it is simply a "referendum about civil rights." People sign without understanding that it is an effort to remove an existing civil rights law. We already know that people will sign the petition by simply being asked, but they will also not sign the petition if they are asked not to. Volunteers are needed to help fight this anti-rights effort. If you want to help, call PA-GALA at 610-432-5449 or <email liztrish@aol.com>. Read more about this on page 7.

If you know someone who has signed the "McVeigh Petition" but wants to remove their name, please have them contact PA-GALA.

**PRIDE  
FESTIVAL  
JUNE 23  
READ ALL ABOUT  
PRIDE  
FESTIVAL EVENTS  
ON PAGE 3.**



Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the bases listed in the anti-discrimination statement on page 8, and asks that organizations which request VFP to publish information about their events maintain a similar policy.



## What's That About?



Readers write or email  
"What's That About?"  
editors with questions  
about gay and lesbian issues.



**Dear WTA:** What happened at Senior Fest in Allentown with Frank McVeigh sneaking into Congressman Toomey's booth to get signatures? Why does Frank McVeigh think it is a good idea to take employment, housing and public accommodation rights away from gay and lesbian citizens? **Signed: Who is this guy, anyway?**

**Dear: Who is this guy?** Frank McVeigh did illicitly use Congressman Toomey's booth at Senior Fest to try to get signatures for the "McVeigh Petition" to remove the civil rights law. Toomey insists that he and his office had no idea who McVeigh was and condemned McVeigh's actions, calling them fraud, deplorable, and saying that McVeigh was an interloper. The Morning Call has described McVeigh's petition effort as mean spirited, illicit, and political piracy.

What this shows us is that McVeigh is willing to do anything, even if it is illegal, to get these signatures.

Why is McVeigh so driven to remove the legal rights of a group of Allentown citizens? What makes anyone hate minorities... low self esteem, fear, internalized homophobia, ignorance, a deep seated need to blame others for their own problems? Who knows... regardless, understanding why someone is prejudiced doesn't make them stop persecuting people.

We just have to work as hard as we can to keep this law in place. That means telling everyone you know not to sign the McVeigh Petition and asking them to tell their friends and family not to sign, writing letters to the editor, working together in every way we can and contacting PA-GALA to volunteer to help. To volunteer, call or email PA-GALA now: 610-432-5449, <ltrish@aol.com>.

## GAY MEN'S CHORUS

The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus (LVGMC) has been extended a special invitation to perform on June 8 at the National Conference of the Susan G. Komen Foundation for breast cancer research in Washington D.C. Last fall, LVGMC organized a Lehigh Valley performance of "Sing for the Cure," a musical work centered on breast cancer awareness. In this reprisal, LVGMC will again be joined by Another Octave (a Connecticut Women's Chorus) and several members of the Bethlehem based Concord Chamber.

LVGMC is also preparing for its June Pride Concert set for June 29.

## HEALTH DEPARTMENT UPDATE

Lyme disease is a tick borne illness that affects many in our area. Use bug repellent, wear light colored clothing and check often for ticks, stay on trails and out of areas with tall grass/weeds. If you find a tick remove it quickly with a tweezer (ticks removed in 24-48 hours don't have enough time to transmit the disease). Call your doctor if you develop a rash shaped like a bulls-eye.

Hepatitis A transmission can occur in a wide variety of ways including open plates of food, salad bars, inadequate hand washing after using a restroom and from intimate contact. If you or anyone you know is experiencing flu-like symptoms, please consult your physician. A simple blood test can identify Hepatitis A. Contact the Allentown Health Bureau: 610-437-7577 for more information.

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## SCOTT SAYS

By Scott Laubner



### THE CRADLE WILL ROCK

When I told Cora, my coworker, I'm excited about seeing the Theatre Outlet's play "The Cradle Will Rock," she said she loved the movie version where Rebecca DeMornay tries to steal the lady's family. I thought I better sit down and tell Cora about this musical.

This "labor opera" was written by gay composer Marc Blitzstein. It premiered in 1937 as part of the Federal Theatre Project. Back then, when shocked government authorities discovered the socialist message of the play they ordered the play to be closed. The scenery, costumes and orchestra books were confiscated. The orchestra was forbidden from playing. Actor's Equity forbid the actors from taking the stage. Armed guards blocked the entrance of the theater on opening night. But Orson Welles, the director, and John Houseman, the producer, believed the show must go on. So they bought a stand up piano, and found another theater to perform the play.

Because of the controversy about the play, over twenty-five hundred people showed up on opening night including the actors and stagehands that were curious to see what would happen. Marc Blitzstein himself played the piano and described to the audience what was happening. After the overture he began to sing the libretto. Spontaneously, a girl named Olive Stanton, one of the actresses in the play, stood at her seat and began to sing with him. Then other cast members stood up at their seats to sing their parts. The actors improvised scenes in the aisles, on platforms, anywhere there was room.

The show was a huge success. The audience applauded for nearly an hour. That was 65 years ago. My little chipmunk readers, I can't wait to see what the Theatre Outlet has in store.

## SCOTT PLANS TWO HAPPY TRAVELERS EVENTS

It has been a while since I organized a social. So keep May 9th open. I have reserved a table at the Brick Tavern located at 2460 Old Bethlehem Pike, (215) 538-0865, for 6:00pm but if you can't make it by six then come by later. Bring a friend; but email me before hand so I can keep a headcount. I'll forward you directions if you need them: scottlaubner@yahoo.com.

Last year GLISN, the GLBT employee group at my place of business, chartered a bus to go to the New York City Pride parade. We opened the bus to the whole community. I am trying to ascertain if we could fill up a 39 seat bus again this year. The cost would be \$17.00 to \$20.00 round trip depending on the number of people going. The parade is June 30th. Interested? Email me.

## STEVIE Z DATES

Now that winter has passed - it's time to get 'out and about'. Come to see 'Stevie' at these public concerts. The group selected to receive 50% of tips for the months of May/June 2002 will be: PA-GALA. Now more than ever, we need to stand united to make sure all people have equal rights.

May 4th, 11th and 25th - Brick Tavern Inn - Quakertown, PA Piano Dinner Music from 6:30-9:30PM. Call (215) 538-0865 for Reservations. May 10th (Friday) - Stonewall/Mooselounge - Allentown, PA Piano Sing-a-Long from 9PM-Midnite. No cover charge. June 7 - 9PM-Midnite - Mooselounge. June 8, 15, 22 - Brick Tavern from 6:30-9:30. **Stevie reminds you to vote on May 21!**

## HAVEN SEEKS PR PERSON

The Haven Steering committee seeks a new PR person. The individual should have some journalistic abilities, be reliable, know how to contact the LV media and be able to use e-mail. Interested persons contact Ilse at zinnes@fast.net or 610-868-2153.





## A VIEW FROM A DYKE

By Liz Bradbury

### PRIMARY MAY 21

Key races need our votes. PA-GALA is endorsing Ed Rendell for Governor and Allen Kukovich for Lt. Governor. Rendell has been pro-gay since the

early 1980s. He spoke from the stage of the Pride Festival last year. Kukovich was the Prime Sponsor of the Hate Crimes Bill in the PA Senate. He came to a special event to meet GLBT voters at Candida's in April. They are the best choices for GLBT rights and in my opinion for everything else as well.

**All Lehigh Valley Democrats can vote for an openly GLBT candidate!** Steve Black is running for State Democratic Committee for Northampton County and Allyson Hamm is running for State Democratic Committee in Lehigh County. Though the committee has about 500 people, there is no GLBT caucus to support GLBT issues and pro-GLBT candidates. Steve and Allyson plan to organize one.

Refer to the enclosed PA-GALA pink sheet and your PA-GALA candidate guide that will come in the mail for further information.

Bullet  
vote for  
Dem.  
Com-  
mittee  
just for  
Steve



Bullet  
vote for  
Dem.  
Com-  
mittee  
just for  
Allyson

Below from Left: State Dem. Committee Candidate Steve Black, Atown City Councilmember Gail Hoover, Lt. Governor Candidate Sen. Allen Kukovich, State Dem. Committee Candidate Allyson Hamm

## HATE PETITION

We had hoped this VFP issue would be a celebration of the terrific win of the equal rights bill in Allentown, but it turns out the law is now seriously threatened by the efforts of one person, Frank McVeigh. McVeigh and a public committee of four people; Thomas Malitsch, Martin O'Conner Sr., J. Diane Varra, and George I. Snyder, are trying to get 2000 signatures on petitions to force a ballot referendum to repeal the current law. That would mean that people would vote on the repeal of the law in November.

The referendum process in Allentown is too easy. Referendums are supposed to be for issues like taxes and charter changes, not civil rights. The concept of majority rules is not for deciding on the basic human rights of Americans. This referendum is a threat.

Most people don't know that it is legal to fire someone by just saying they are gay (Unless there is a local law prohibiting that kind of discrimination). Please tell everyone you know that there is no federal or state law protecting GLBT people from being fired for being gay. And that is why local laws are put in place. Then ask them not to sign the petition.

One more thing to make clear. There is no large group of people who are organizing this anti-gay effort. There is no Christian Coalition, no far right church, not even a local politician that is working to get this law repealed. It's all one guy: McVeigh. He wants this law repealed because he does not want GLBT people to have any rights. That's it. So he is working everyday to get the signatures, telling people anything to get them to sign.

We must join together and work to keep these rights, we cannot let homophobia and hatred win. Please contact PA-GALA now to volunteer to help. 610-432-5449, liztrish@aol.com

## 7 TRISH'S COLUMN

By Patricia Sullivan



### ANOTHER GOOD REASON TO LIVE AND WORK IN ALLENTOWN - ALLENTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT INCLUDES SEXUAL ORIENTATION IN ITS NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Allentown School District adopted a nondiscrimination policy including sexual orientation in March, 2001. Other protected classes in the policy are race, color, creed, national origin, religion, sex, ancestry, handicap and disability.

The school district's policy number 103 is titled, "Nondiscrimination in School District, School and Classroom Practices." The policy addresses curricula content, staff training, student access, district support, student evaluation, equitable employment and promotional procedures for school district personnel and those seeking initial employment, attendance and disciplinary procedures, internal and external communication and liaisons with community organizations.

The Assistant Superintendent - Human Resources and Operations, Dr. Ray Erb is responsible for the implementation of the policy and serves as the District's Compliance Officer. I spoke to Dr. Erb directly and he confirms that under this policy teachers are protected from discrimination based on sexual orientation.

The school district recently developed a comprehensive anti-harassment policy, including sexual orientation, and that policy is expected to be approved at the May 16 school board meeting

Many people, including some Allentown teachers I spoke to, were unaware that sexual orientation was now covered by the school district policy.

Frank McVeigh, who is currently leading a petition effort to rescind the recently passed addition of sexual orientation and gender identity to Allentown's Anti-discrimination Ordinance, has argued that the law needs to be rescinded in part to prevent gay men and lesbians from working in the school system. But in Allentown, even if anti-rights individuals like McVeigh, J. Diane Varra, George I. Snyder, Thomas Malitsch, and Martin O'Conner Sr. were to succeed in their efforts to remove sexual orientation from the anti discrimination ordinance, teachers would still be protected under the school district's employment policy.

## PA-GALA DONATES \$1000 TO PRIDE



PA-GALA's Liz Bradbury presents Pride President Brenda Hoelman with a \$1000 donation for the Pride Festival, as Pride Boardmember Allyson Hamm looks on. The donation, which was part of the money raised at PA-GALA's Laramie Project benefit at Theater Outlet in March, is earmarked for the Pride Parade.

PA-GALA has thanked the many people and groups who helped with the fundraiser especially the Theatre Outlet, but forgot to mention Steve Libby and friends whose effort on several raffles raised additional donations.



# CALENDAR<sup>4</sup>

**ACCO-A** Chorus Celebrating Women, AIDS Outreach-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424

**AIDSWALK-** AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley - 610.974.8701 [www.regiononline.com/vlaids](http://www.regiononline.com/vlaids)

**ASC-** AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701

**As If Productions -** Documentary Film Makers, 610.434.7845

**BMA-** Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360

**B&N-** Barnes and Noble Gay&Lesbian Book Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm

**BEARS-** 1st Saturdays Monthly, 8pm, at the Stonewall, Moose Lounge 610-814-6916, [Mnbear@fast.net](mailto:Mnbear@fast.net).

**CIVIC and 19th St.** Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <[civictheater.com](mailto:civictheater.com)>

**Enigma Players--** qacres@prolog.net

**equal@agere-** email: [equal@agere.com](mailto:equal@agere.com)

**FACT-** Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519

**GLEE** at Air Products

**GLASS-** at Lehigh Univ., 610.758.3469

**GLISN-** at Dun & Bradstreet, <[vagrathollow.com/GLISN/](mailto:vagrathollow.com/GLISN/)>

**GLORA-** Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings, various dates) Newsletter- The Tassle. Write to: P.O. Box 1952, Allentown PA 18105-1952, email: [GLORAinPA@AOL.COM](mailto:GLORAinPA@AOL.COM)

**GLOSS -** Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, P.O. Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 610.434.2966.

**GLSEN-** Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Education Network, 610-867-6641, [csbarron21@aol.com](mailto:csbarron21@aol.com)

**GMV-** Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd Saturdays Monthly 7pm, 610.954.7775

**HAVEN** GLBT Youth Group of the UUCLV - call: 610-868-215, email: [havenyouthgroup@hitmail.com](mailto:havenyouthgroup@hitmail.com) or [zinnies@fast.net](mailto:zinnies@fast.net)

**HMFF-Hope** Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716

**Integrity-** Lesbian and Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meet quarterly for fellowship and fun. 610-758-8642 or [integritybeth@mindspring.com](mailto:integritybeth@mindspring.com)

**KS-Kindred Spirits-** Support, discussion, and social group for lesbians and bisexual women Contact : Chris at 610-868-0248, or Donna at 610.997.00607

**LVGMC -** Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email: [lvgmc@hotmail.com](mailto:lvgmc@hotmail.com), <[www.lvgmc.org](http://www.lvgmc.org)> phone 610-366-3320, rehearsals:: Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center Street, Bethlehem

**MCC -** Metropolitan Community office-424 Center St. Bethlehem, 6 pm Sundays , 610.954.7775

**NCC-** Northampton Community College Gay Lesbian and Bisexual Student Union, call 610.861.5541/(#1386) or 882-2531

**19th St/Civic Theatre-** 610.432.8943

**Out There-** Students at Cedar Crest College

**PA-GALA -** PA Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Political Action, (Candidate Info Booklet, & Political Lobbying) For membership: send \$20 to: P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610.432.5449

**PFLAG -** LV Parents Families and Friends of Lesbians and gays 2nd Sundays 3pm at NCC, Coll. Cntr Rm 134 610.967.5219 <[www.users.fast.net/~pflag](http://www.users.fast.net/~pflag)>

**Pride -** Pride of the Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <[lvpride@hotmail.com](mailto:lvpride@hotmail.com)>, <[www.pridelv.org](http://www.pridelv.org)>

**QuEST -** Student group at Lafayette College Farion Center Box 429 Easton, PA, <[QuEST\\_Lafayette@hotmail.com](mailto:QuEST_Lafayette@hotmail.com)>

## MAY 2002

## PRIMARY ELECTION MAY 21 VOTE FOR STEVE & ALLYSON

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 HAVEN	2RA GLOSS	3	4 WDIY GLOSS BEARS PFLAG M
5 MCC UUCLV HMFF Bingo	6 RAA	7 LVGMC GLOSS	8 HAVEN	9 LVGMC R Concert Happy Ts GLOSS	10 Stevie Z	11 GMLV WDIY GLOSS Stevie Z
12 HMFF UUCLV PFLAG B Bingo MCC WDIY	13 RAA GLSEN	14 GLOSS LVGMC	15 HAVEN	16 PFLAG P RAA GLOSS	17 PRIDE Kings @ DIAMONZ	18 WDIY GLOSS Game Night
19 HMFF UUCLV MCC WDIY	20 RAA	21 PFLAG R B&N Bookclub Primary Election	22 HAVEN	23 RAA GLOSS	24 PRIDE @ Stonewall	25 WDIY GLOSS Stevie Z
26 MCC HMFF WDIY UUCLV	27 RAA	28 GLOSS LVGMC	29 HAVEN	30 RAA GLOSS	31	

## JUNE 2002 -- GAY PRIDE MONTH

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 WDIY GLOSS BEARS PFLAG M
2 MCC HMFF 3 UUCLV Bingo	RAA	4 GLOSS LVGMC	5 HAVEN	6 ACCO RAA GLOSS	7 Pride Film Fest Stevie Z PRIDE Kings @ DIAMONZ	8 GMLV Pride Film Fest Stevie Z
9 Bingo PFLAG B	10 RAA	11 GLOSS LVGMC	12 HAVEN PRIDE Queens	13 ACCO RAA GLOSS	14	15 GLOSS WDIY Stevie Z
16 Bingo HMFF UUCLV MCC	17 RAA Enigma Players	18 PFLAG R LVGMC GLOSS	19 HAVEN Pride Film Fest	20 PFLAG P RAA ACCO GLOSS	21	22 Stevie Z GLOSS WDIY
23 PRIDE FESTIVAL	24 RAA	25 GLOSS LVGMC	26 HAVEN MCC	27 ACCO RAA MCC GLOSS	28	29 LVGMC Concert

## JULY 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 RAA	2 LVGMC	3 HAVEN	4 GLOSS RAA	5	6 PFLAG M WDIY BEARS PFLAG M
7 WDIY HMFF UUCLV MCC Bingo	8 RAA	9 LVGMC	10 HAVEN	11 RAA GLOSS	12	13 GMLV ovom film GLOSS WDIY MCC
14 PFLAG picnic HMFF MCC WDIY Bingo	RAA	15 LVGMC GLOSS PFLAG R	16 HAVEN	17 RAA GLOSS	18	19 WDIY GLOSS Game Night
21 WDIY UUCLV HMFF Bingo	22 RAA	23 GLOSS LVGMC	24 HAVEN	25 RAA GLOSS	26	27 WDIY GLOSS
28 MCC WDIY HMFF UUCLV	29 RAA	30 GLOSS LVGMC				



**Quakers-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route**  
512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA.  
Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.  
**RAA- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs.**  
Episcopal Church, 16th & Turner Awn.  
**Ren- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc.,**  
P.O.Box 157 Trexlertown 18087 - 610-814-  
0530/0531

**Rainbow Space - Muhlenberg College**  
Organization 610.821.3244

**Reading P-FLAG- 610.488.7533or 670.8029**

**Safe Space- At Lehigh U. 610.758.3469**

**Saint John's Lutheran Church- A welcoming,**  
gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown  
610.435.1587

**Softball- (Women's) call Diamonz, 610.865.1028**  
T.O. - Theatre Outlet-29 Nth 9th St, Allentown,  
610-820-9270.

**Unity- 26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417**

**UUCLV- Unitarian Universalist Church of the**  
Lehigh Valley, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem,  
18018 610.866.7652.

**VFP - Valley Free Press 610.432.5449,**  
liztrish@aol.com

**VYH - Valley Youth House for emotionally**  
troubled GLBT youth 610.432.6481

**WDIY- WDIY - 88.1 fm 9.30 pm Saturday 7:00 pm**  
This Way Out, Assorted Women 7:30 pm. 610-  
694-8100.88.

## SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

**FACT BINGO@ DIAMONZ SUNDAYS**  
**MCC BLESSING OF RELATIONSHIPS**  
**PANNING MTG @ THIR ACORNDS**  
**GLBT YOUTH GROUP**  
**HAVEN - WEDNESDAYS**  
**LV BEARS - 1ST SATURDAYS**  
**GAY MEN-LV - 2ND SATURDAYS**  
**GLOSS VOLLEYBALL -TUES & THURS**  
**GLOSS TENNIS - SUNDAYS**  
**GLOSS RACQUETBALL -TUES & SATS**  
**LV GAY MENS CHORUS**  
**CONCERT - MAY 9**  
**HAPPY TRAVELERS - MAY 9**  
**STEVIE Z @ STONEWALL - MAY 10**  
**GMV FILM NIGHT - MAY 11**  
**STEVIE Z @ BRICK TAVERN - MAY 11**  
**MCC MOTHERS DAY SERVICE - MAY 12**  
**MCC FUNDRAISING MTG- MAY 12**  
**PFLAG BY ALBIE - MAY 12**  
**GLSEN MEETING - MAY 13**  
**PFLAG POTTSVILLE - MAY 16**  
**KING COMPETITION @ DIAMONZ - MAY 17**  
**MCC COMM. MINISTRY MTG - MAY 19**  
**GLOSS GAME NIGHT - MAY 18**  
**PRIMARY ELECTION DAY - MAY 21**  
**PFLAG READING - MAY 21**  
**B & N BOOK CLUB - MAY 21**  
**PRIDE BENEFIT @ STONEWALL - MAY 24**  
**STEVIE Z @ BRICK TAVERN - MAY 25**  
**PFLAG MONROE - JUNE 1**  
**MCC WOMEN IN THE BIBLE - JUNE 2**  
**PRIDE BENEFIT MURDER MYSTERY - JUNE 2**  
**STEVIE Z @ STONEWALL - JUNE 7**  
**PRIDE FILM FEST - JUNE 7-8**  
**PRIDE KING PAGEANT @ DIAMONZ - JUNE 7**  
**STEVIE Z @ BRICK TAVERN - JUNE 8**  
**MCC WOMEN IN THE BIBLE - JUNE 9**  
**PFLAG BETHLEHEM - JUNE 9**  
**MCC COM. MINISTRY WORKSHOP - JUNE 9**  
**PRIDE QUEEN PAGEANT - JUNE 12**  
**STEVIE Z @ BRICK TAVERN - JUNE 15**  
**MCC WOMEN IN THE BIBLE - JUNE 16**  
**MCC HOMOSEXUALITY & BIBLE - JUNE 16**  
**ENIGMA PLAYERS TO - JUNE 17**  
**PFLAG READING - JUNE 18**  
**PRIDE FILM FEST - JUNE 19**  
**PFLAG POTTSVILLE - JUNE 20**  
**STEVIE Z @ BRICK TAVERN - JUNE 22**  
**MCC WOMEN IN THE BIBLE - JUNE 23**  
**LV PRIDE FESTIVAL - JUNE 23**  
**MCC PRIDE SERVICE - JUNE 23**  
**LVGMC CONCERT - JUNE 29**  
**MCC WOMEN IN THE BIBLE - JUNE 30**  
**PFLAG MONROE - JULY 6**  
**OVOM FILM @ TO - JULY 13**  
**MCC DAY AT THE BEACH - JULY 13**  
**PFLAG PICNIC - JULY 14**  
**PFLAG READING - JULY 16**

**INFORMATION**  
**SUBJECT TO CHANGE.**  
**CALL TO CONFIRM**

**TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449**  
**EMAIL: LIZTRISH@AOL.COM**

# GAIL HOOVER TO BE PRIDE PARADE GRAND MARSHALL

City Councilmember Gail Hoover will be the Pride Parade Grand Marshall on June 23. The Pride Festival committee asked Gail to be the Grand Marshall because of her successful introduction of the bill to add sexual orientation and gender identity to Allentown's Anti-discrimination Ordinance, her representation of the GLBT community in city government and her longtime support of the Pride Festival from its beginning. Gail Hoover is the highest ranked out GLBT elected official in the State of PA.



## CIVIL UNION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Connie Holt and Donna Marie Vas of Allentown, announce their Civil Union in Brattleboro, Vermont, March 27, 2002. Justice of the Peace Ethel Brosnahan officiated.

To have your Vermont Civil Union listed here, or to get more information on how to get a Vermont Civil Union, email VFP at: <liztrish@aol.com>.

## "AS IF PRODUCTIONS" CHANGES NAME TO "ONE VISION, ONE MISSION" *By Stephen Libby*

Many people have asked me when our next film is going to be ready and where it will be shown. First let me thank those people who keep asking. Because of you, I was able to continue this dream even while facing numerous obstacles over the past year.

First, two creative partners left "As If Productions" for personal reasons. I wish Anne the best in her marriage to Sam, but I felt empty and unmotivated when she left. Second, I found "As If Productions" was already a registered name and had to find another. The new name is **One Vision, One Mission** and the logo is neat. Our mission statement remains the same: to promote awareness and tolerance of under-represented populations through the use of video, film and other media.

Third, while many people have offered their time and energy, it is usually for the work in process. Therefore, there have been few constants. This keeps the energy level high and burnout level low. So, while we will continue to create these documentaries, due to lack of long term players, it will be under the category of (ultra) small business, rather than a non-profit. Fourth, I need to thank the GLBT community for being supportive of this dream. Without your stories and interest, my dreams would still be confined to my head.

Fifth, we have been working over the past 10 months. The first film under the OVOM banner is "HIV/AIDS: 20 Years Later." It was shown to great acclaim at the 2002 National Association of Social Workers Conference in Pittsburgh, and will be shown at the Theatre Outlet on Saturday, July, 13 at 7pm with a wine & cheese reception. (Call the TO at 610.820.9270 to reserve tickets.)

A newly edited hybrid of the Lavender Lens films called Through a Lavender Lens: Your Friends & Neighbors will be screened at The Warhol Museum in Pittsburgh in mid-June. I also use clips from these docs in educational/sensitivity trainings that I do at universities. To get involved with OVOM, e-mail us at <STL327@hotmail.com>. Our next project is titled "My Trans Mission." Filming starts in mid July. Contact us about speaking at your school or business to help promote awareness & tolerance.

## PA SECOND-PARENT ADOPTION UPDATE

The PA Legislature is considering a piece of legislation that would overhaul the entire Pennsylvania Adoption Act. The Senate version of this legislation, Senate Bill 859, was to come to a vote in the Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday, April 30; however, the Committee decided to delay consideration until some future date as yet unspecified.

The PA Catholic Conference has been lobbying members of the Committee, asking them to amend SB 859 to prohibit second-parent adoption. Please let the Senate Judiciary Committee know that second-parent adoption is good for children.

The members of the Senate Judiciary Committee are:  
Republicans: Greenleaf, Stewart -- Chair 717-787-6599, Lemmond Jr., Charles -- Vice Chair 717-787-7428, Earl, Jane -- 717-787-8927, Gerlach, Jim -- 717-787-1398, Helfrick, Edward -- 717-787-8928, Orie, Jane -- 717-787-6538, Piccola, Jeffrey -- 717-787-6801, White, Mary Jo -- 717-787-9684 -- Democrats: Costa Jr., Jay, Minority Chair 717-787-7683, Boscola, Lisa -- 717-787-4236, Kukovich, Allen -- 717-787-6063, O'Pake, Michael -- 717-787-8925, Schwartz, Allyson -- 717-787-1427.

**SUGGESTED MESSAGE:** In its current form, SB 859 would restore second-parent adoption in Pennsylvania. Second-parent adoption gives children in same-sex families the same legal protection and financial security that children in all other families have. It would be wrong to take this legal protection away from these children. Please keep second-parent adoption in SB 859. The address for all Senators is: Honorable Firstname Lastname, Senate of Pennsylvania, Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120, get email addresses at <www.state.pa.us>.



# PLANET Parenthood

edited by Carolyn Lewis

## I WANT TO SHARE THIS STORY WITH YOU -

Last November, Janet's 13 year old daughter, Alyssa, placed in a school-wide literature contest. We went to the award ceremony together with my parents who had come down for Thanksgiving. We walked in and my mother immediately fell down several steps. She broke her shoulder in 3 places and suffered a brain injury as well as many cuts, bruises, and broken teeth. We left with the ambulance and Alyssa never got to be recognized for receiving the award which they tossed to her as we were going out the door.

We found out when we got home from the City Council meeting Tuesday evening (April 2) that Alyssa had taken first place in the next level of this contest! She was ecstatic about it until she realized that the award ceremony was April 3rd, the day of the City Council vote, the following evening. She wanted to go to back to City Council on Wednesday to show her support for the vote. She had gone on Tuesday with me and the kids and was so excited to be there. Annoyed that we had to leave early, she had been looking forward to going back the following night. This 13 year old girl was so passionate about this vote that she offered to miss getting her award (again!) to support the community. I was so proud of her. We opted to go to the award ceremony instead because she deserved to get her trophy, but all of our hearts were with the community at the meeting.

## METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH LV EVENTS

**Blessing of Relationships Planning Meeting:** Meets 3rd Mondays, 7 p.m. at the church. Plan MCCLV's 2003 Blessing of Relationships service to celebrate National Freedom to Marry Day.

**Photos of Mom:** Les Gross is coordinating a special display table for Mother's Day - Sunday, May 12. Please bring with you to service that day a photo of your mother to honor or memorialize.

**Fundraising Team:** Meeting Sunday, May 12 at 3 p.m. at the Southside Bethlehem Perkins.

**Community Building Ministry Team:** Meeting Sunday, May 19 at 4 p.m. Plan MCCLV's Pridefest booth and parade participation!

**In June, Rev. Goudy will be presenting a five-part sermon series on "The Women of the Hebrew Bible."**

June 2 - Miriam (Exodus 15:20-21 & Numbers 12:1-15)

June 9 - Tamar (2 Samuel 13, 14:25-27)

June 16 - Hagar & Sarah (Genesis 21:1-20)

June 23 - Esther (Esther 8:1-17, 9:29-32)

June 30 - Ruth & Naomi (Ruth 1:1-22 & 4:13-22)

**Community Building Ministry Team Workshop** - "Telling People About the Church" Sunday, June 9 at 4 p.m. S

**Homosexuality and the Bible: Workshop** - Sunday, June 16, 1-4 p.m. Facilitated by MCCLV Pastor Rev. Beth Goudy. To register, please call the church office at 610-954-7775 or e-mail the church at [mcclvhighvalley@yahoo.com](mailto:mcclvhighvalley@yahoo.com)

**MCCLV's Pride Service** - Outdoors! at the Pridefest celebration in Cedar Beach Park, Allentown. 6 p.m. Special music by guest vocalist Gena Rose from the MCC in Media, PA. with special remembrance of GLBTA heroes.

**MCCLV's "Day At The Beach"** Saturday, July 13. Beautiful Mauch Chunk Lake Park.

**MCCLV offer's Sign Language class!** Interested in the learning the basics of sign language? Once a month there will be a sign language class meeting at 4 p.m. here at the church. Leading the class is Margo Kerek - for info e-mail [marge59@aol.com](mailto:marge59@aol.com)

## RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

by Denise McKelvey

Dear Denise, My understanding of IRA accounts is that I am able to transfer my IRA account to my partner and he can place it into an IRA in his name, thereby avoiding taxes until he takes a withdrawal from the account. Can you please verify this for me?

Signed, Mr. IRA Giver

Dear Mr. Giver, IRA rules for distributions are exceptionally complicated. Briefly though, if someone dies before age 70 1/2 (when mandatory distributions are to begin), and the beneficiary is the deceased's (legal) SPOUSE, it can just be rolled over to the spouse as their own IRA and continue from there. When the beneficiary is anyone other than a legal spouse (which is your situation), a rollover IS NOT permitted. Instead, the IRA becomes a "beneficiary IRA," and there are two choices: Start regular distributions over the life expectancy of the beneficiary, or else withdraw everything by the end of the fifth year following the death of the original owner.

For example, if the owner of the IRA dies in 2002, the beneficiary must begin annual distributions over his life expectancy by December 31, 2003. If not, then he must withdraw the entire IRA by December 31, 2007. You can download the life expectancy tables from the IRS website at [IRS.gov](http://IRS.gov) in Publication 590. A 50 year-old beneficiary has a 33.1 year life expectancy and will divide the value of the IRA by 33.1 to determine the first distribution. In the following year, they divide the value of the IRA by 32.1, next 31.1, etc.

**TAX IMPLICATIONS:** Federal estate tax limits have increased to \$1 million. It may be likely that your partner will avoid estate taxes, but he will need to pay the income taxes for the withdrawals. IRA's were originally designed to be spent in retirement, not inherited. My personal opinion is that these laws will continually be reviewed over your lifetime. So review your situation on an ongoing basis.

One possibility is to consider converting Traditional IRA's to Roth IRA's. The concept is that you pay the taxes on the amount that you choose to convert. You may want to convert \$10,000 per year, for example. You would pay the tax now, keep the account for at least 5 years, no withdrawals, assuming that you are over 59 1/2 at that point, either you or your beneficiaries, may be free of federal income taxes at withdrawal.

Denise McKelvey is a Financial Advisor for American Express Financial Advisors, Inc. located at 7248 Tilghman St. in Allentown. Please email your questions or send e-mail to [Denise.McKelvey@AEXP.com](mailto:Denise.McKelvey@AEXP.com) Information provided within this column may not be appropriate for your specific financial situation.

## ALLYSON APPOINTED COMMISSIONER

GLBT community leader Allyson Hamm has been appointed by Allentown Mayor Roy Afflerbach and Allentown City Council as a Allentown Human Relations Commissioner. The AHRC is a volunteer city government committee that oversee anti-discrimination efforts and the implementations of the Allentown Human Relations Ordinance, and works to promote fairness, tolerance and communication for minorities and under-represented people in Allentown.



## GMLV TO MOVE TO NEW MEETING PLACE

Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley TO MOVE! On May 11. Monthly meetings resume at "Joe's Place," with the film: "Hedwig and the Angry Inch." Email for directions. GMLV meets every 2nd Saturday of each month at 7 pm. Refreshments are served, a \$1 donation is requested. [cgaymenlv@hotmail.com](mailto:cgaymenlv@hotmail.com).



# HOT NEWS

## BARNES & NOBLE GLBT BOOKCLUB

Barnes & Noble GLBT book club meets in the cafe area at the Whitehall store at 7:00 PM. All are welcome! Here is the upcoming schedule: May 21 - The World of Normal Boys, A Novel by K.M. Soehnlein.

## PFLAG MEETINGS

PFLAG -- Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays announces these upcoming meetings:

May 4, 2002 Monroe Meeting 3:00 pm  
May 12, 2002 Bethlehem Meeting 3:00 pm  
May 16, 2002 Pottsville Meeting 7:30 pm  
May 21, 2002 Reading Meeting 6:30 pm  
June 1, 2002 Monroe Meeting 3:00 pm  
June 9, 2002 Bethlehem Meeting 3:00 pm  
June 18, 2002 Reading Meeting 6:30 pm  
June 20, 2002 Pottsville Meeting 7:30 pm  
June 26, 2002 Monroe Meeting 3:00 pm  
July 14, 2002 Annual PFLAG Picnic  
July 16, 2002 Reading Meeting 6:30 pm  
July 18, 2002 Pottsville Meeting 7:30 pm

For information on these and other PFLAG events call: 610-967-5219.

## FACT BINGO AT DIAMONZ

Carol Ann's Bingo for FACT, Every Sunday at Diamonz 7pm. Carol Ann says, "Here's a chance to win big bucks, fun prizes and be part of the most fabulous Bingo game in the Lehigh Valley."

## GLORA PLANS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organization of Reading & Allentown plans social events in the Lehigh Valley. For info write: GLORA, PO Box 1952, Allentown, PA 18105-1952 or email GLORAinPA@aol.com

## GLOSS GAME NIGHT

On Saturday, May, 18 GLOSS will be having its third annual picnic and last game night of the winter/spring season. Schedule: 2:00 Volleyball, 6:00 Cookout, 8:00-??? Games. Volleyball will take place at Water Street Park in Hellertown. The cookout and game night will be at Steve's. Check the website (<http://www.gloss.org>) for directions and RSVP if you plan to attend the cookout. [fabio@early.com](mailto:fabio@early.com), [corbesero@fast.net](mailto:corbesero@fast.net), GLOSS: 610-434-2966

## GLSEN MEETING

GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, Straight, Education Network) will be meeting on Monday, May, 13 -7:00 pm. at Seagers Student Union, Muhlenberg College.

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## PRIDE ANNOUNCES DRAMATIC CHANGES

**THE PRIDE PARADE** will be marching down Hamilton Street for the first time ever! This is a dramatic new change that will provide more visibility to the GLBT community. To ensure its success, it will require extra community support. One way to lend support is to attend a murder mystery dinner extravaganza benefiting the Pride Parade featuring DJ David Petrilla & local ladies of illusion.

**"MURDER IS A DRAG!"** will be held Sunday, June 2 at the Americus Hotel's Grand Ballroom. Cocktails to be served at 7pm, dinner at 8:30 pm. Tickets are \$25, must be purchased in advance, and are available through Stonewall, Diamonz or Pride.

**PRIDE WEB SITE** has a dramatic new look. Check it out & check back often. Updates are being done continually. So don't be left out. Visit [www.pride-lv.org](http://www.pride-lv.org) to find out what's going on.

**NEW PRIDE BOARD MEMBERS INCLUDE:** Dan Angelis, Steve Corbesero, Mark Gable, Rob Ritter (aka Kitty Mame Dietrich, 2001 Pride Queen), Mike Rumsey, Tanya Sottolano (aka Renegade, 2001 Pride King) and Scott Self.

**MARCH IN THE PARADE DOWN TO THE 2002 LEHIGH VALLEY GLBT PRIDE FESTIVAL BEING HELD AT CEDAR BEACH PARK IN ALLENTOWN ON JUNE 23RD!!** Parade assembles at 10th & Linden Sts. and begins down Hamilton St. at 11 am. Festival runs from noon-6 pm.

**PRIDE IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE ALLENTOWN CITY COUNCILMEMBER, GAIL HOOVER AS THE 2002 GRAND MARSHAL.**

**MISS TINSEL GARLAND & MISS ROBBIE STAR** to host the Main Stage featuring live bands such as Spitshine, a local alt-rock fave. Look for grand performances from the 2001 & 2002 Pride King & Queen, as well as the entire LV Royal Court. They will be joined by the ever-popular Diamonz Dolls & many more local stars. Stonewall's talented David Petrilla to be featured as Main Stage DJ. **THE "UNPLUGGED TENT"** to feature the LV Gay Men's Chorus, Players' Anonymous and many more talented local performers.

## OTHER EXCITING PRIDE EVENTS TO ATTEND:

**FRIDAY, MAY 17:** 80's Flashback Dance at Diamonz. A Pride benefit complete with big hair contest.

**FRIDAY, MAY 24:** Miss Kitty Mame Dietrich, the current Queen of Pride to host a Pride Benefit Show at Stonewall at 11 pm. (\$5 entrance fee donation)

**FRIDAY, MAY 31:** Pride Benefit Dance at Diamonz. Check for more details soon.

(Anyone have a great idea for a theme? If so, contact Pride at [info@pride-lv.com](mailto:info@pride-lv.com).)

**SUNDAY, JUNE 2:** MURDER IS A DRAG! A murder mystery dinner benefiting the Pride Parade.

**FRIDAY, JUNE 7:** Pride King Pageant at Diamonz hosted by Sebastian, King of Diamonz. (Pride King & Queen Pageant Applications will be available at Diamonz & Stonewall starting May 1.)

**SUNDAY, JUNE 9:** Philadelphia Pride Festival (Volunteers needed from Pride of LV.)

**WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12:** Pride Queen Pageant at Stonewall at 11 pm. (\$3 entrance fee donation.)

**MONDAY, JUNE 17:** The Enigma Players present a Pride benefit performance at the Theatre Outlet, 29 N. 9th St., Allentown.

**SATURDAY, JUNE 29:** LV Gay Men's Chorus Pride Concert

## PRIDE FILM FESTIVAL

All screenings request a \$7 entrance fee donation. Opening night will start at 8pm on Friday, June 7 at Prosser Auditorium of Moravian College. Saturday, June 8 will feature 3 showings at the same location. Screen times will be 2pm, 4:30 pm & 7 pm. Closing night will be June 19 at 8pm at the Theatre Outlet: 29 N. 9th St., Allentown. Check the website ([www.pride-lv.org](http://www.pride-lv.org)) for film details as well as future Pride meeting & event times. For more info on any Pride related items, please call 610-770-6200 or email [info@pride-lv.com](mailto:info@pride-lv.com).

## PRIDE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

For Ongoing Events: Chaperones for Teen Night at Diamonz every Thursday night. Volunteers are needed for the following events at the Festival: Set Up Tents, general set up, Pride Central Booth, Volunteer Sign In, Vendor Assistance, Entertainment Assistance, Raffle ticket sales, Kids Space, Facilities, Clean Up Please call PRIDE of the Lehigh Valley at 610-770-6200 or email [LVPRIDEvolunteers@msn.com](mailto:LVPRIDEvolunteers@msn.com).



# POP QUIZ 8

1. How many cities in PA now have anti-discrimination ordinances that include sexual orientation?

A. 1 B. 3 C. 7 D. 8

2. There are now \_\_\_\_ US cities that have anti-discrimination ordinances that include sexual orientation.

A. 35 B. 125 C. 231 D. 341

3. What PA City protects people based on sexual orientation in housing only?

A. Harrisburg B. State College  
C. Lancaster D. York

4. What is the name of the person who is leading the anti-rights petition effort in Allentown?

A. Phelps B. Falwell  
C. Dr. Laura D. McVeigh

5. True or False: There is no federal or state law that protects employment or housing rights based on sexual orientation.

6. What City added gender identity to its anti-discrimination law just days after Allentown did?

A. Seattle B. New York  
C. Philadelphia D. Toronto

7. A Harrisburg legislative committee was set to vote on second parent adoption last week, the outcome was they:

A. passed it B. withdrew it until a later date  
C. amended it D. vetoed it

8. The LV Pride Fest will be on June:

A. 17 B. 22 C. 23 D. 30

9. What well known GLBT community leader was recently appointed as an Allentown Human Relations Commissioner?

A. Allyson Hamm B. Ruby Zebu  
C. Steve Black D. Steve Libby

10. The PA Primary election is on May:

A. 15 B. 21 C. 23 D. 30

1.D 2.C 3.B 4.D 5.T 6.B 7.B 8.C 9.A 10.B

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We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

## PA-GALA

Valley Free Press  
Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University  
PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

## GLORA

Pride of the LV  
LV Gay Men's Chorus  
NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

## FACT

AIDS Outreach  
The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

To add your organization to this list, call 610-432-5449 or email VFP (liztrish@aol.com).

## QUOTE #1

The world renowned biblical scholars who prepared The New Oxford Annotated Bible have adopted a great deal of MCC's own scholarship and theology: There is no biblical condemnation of homosexuality -- only prohibitions against its misuse, just as there is no biblical blanket condemnation of heterosexuality, only prohibitions against misuse of that gift.

—Rev. Troy D. Perry, Founder and Moderator, Metropolitan Community Churches

## QUOTE #2

"I've had enough of being a gay icon. I've had enough of all this hard work, because, since I came out, I keep getting all these parts, and my career's taken off. I want a quiet life. I'm going back into the closet. But I can't get back into the closet because it's absolutely jam-packed full of other actors!"

— Sir Ian McKellen, Saturday Night Live, March 8.

## QUOTE #3

A news story called the incident "political piracy." It was at least a dishonest attempt to gain credibility through association, tarring in the process the integrity of an unsuspecting politician. Such methods belie the mean-spirited nature of this petition drive and underscore why it is undeserving of any support.

**Morning Call Editorial, April 30 – About Frank McVeigh's illegal use of Congressman Toomey's Booth at Senior Fest to get signatures on the anti-rights McVeigh Petition**

**Distelfink® "Hate by any other name  
by Ruby Zebu 5/02 is still hate..."**

"Can you believe that anti-gay people at the City Council meeting had the bizarre need to say that they want to deny GLBT people rights out of Christian love not hate???"

Like if Jesus were here today he'd say, sure, deny that family housing, fire that guy, and do it in my name... that'll make it easier to swallow!



**PRIMARY ELECTION IS MAY 21!!!  
VOTE FOR STEVE & ALLYSON**

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